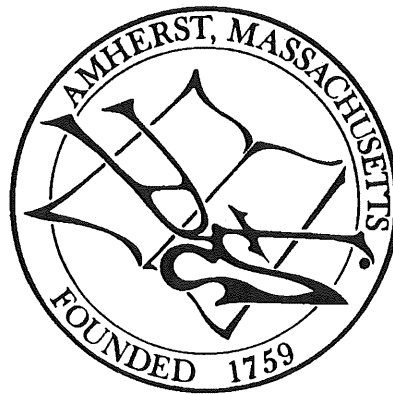


Proposal to the:

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TOWN OF AMHERST
2011 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
GRANT FUNDING
NON SOCIAL SERVICE ACTIVITY APPLICATION



Prepared by

Town of Amherst
Department of Public Works

29 October 2010

Guilford B. Mooring, PE
Superintendent of Public Works

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- 1-24 Pictures of the existing conditions along the project area.

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- A. FY 2010 revenue and Expenditure report, the FY 10 Current Budget, and a 12 month projected budget for this activity.
- B. Organization status, list of Governing members and officers, organizational chart.
- C. Personnel Policy: *Available Upon request*
- D. Affirmative Action/equal opportunity plan: *Available upon request*

AGENCY NAME: Town of Amherst, Department of Public Works
AGENCY ADDRESS: 586 South Pleasant Street.
AGENCY PHONE NO: 413-259-3050 CONTACT PERSON: Guilford B. Mooring
2011 CDBG REQUEST: \$ 470,000.00

Cover Sheet – Non-Social Service Activity

1. Project Name: *Main Street Barrier Removal, Reconstruction and Upgrade.*
2. Project Description (1-2 sentences): *The Scope of this project is to reconstruct and upgrade Main Street from Churchill Street to North East Street. The work will remove existing accessibility issues for pedestrians, bicyclist and users of the Town's mass transit systems and to improve safety for these same groups will maintaining vehicle access.*
3. Project Location: *The project is located on Main Street from Churchill Street to Northeast Street.*
4. Budget Request: *\$ 470,000.00*
5. Type of Activity (check one):
 - ☐ Rehabilitation
 - ☐ Acquisition
 - ☐ Demolition/clearance
 - ☐ Infrastructure
 - ☐ Public Facility
 - ☐ Architectural Barrier Removal
 - ☒ Other – please explain: *This is an Architectural Barrier removal project that will rehabilitate existing infrastructure.*
6. Demonstrate Consistency with Community Development Strategy: *The 2100 Community Development Strategy references the Town's new master plan as the principle guidance document for project submittals. Specifically the following work items will be accomplished to meet the Transportation objectives of the master plan.*
 - a. *Sidewalks will be repaved and widened as necessary.*
 - b. *The sidewalks and roadway will be adjusted as required to remove existing accessibility barriers at crosswalks.*
 - c. *All crosswalk ramp cuts will be constructed to meet ADA standards.*
 - d. *The roadway and curbing will be adjusted as required to provide a positive barrier (maximum 6 inches) between the sidewalk and motorized traffic.*
 - e. *The roadway will be expanded where needed to accommodate the marking of bicycle lanes adjacent to the vehicle travel lanes.*
 - f. *The existing PVRTA transit stops will be upgraded to allow for full bus pull offs, waiting areas and bus shelter pads.*

- g. *A minimum of 3 new crosswalks will be added to allow east and west passage along the Main St. corridor. The new crosswalk at Gray Street and Main Street will also improve access to Towns only passengers train station.*
- h. *Drainage will be modified to remove standing water at the new and upgraded crosswalks.*

As you look over the work items above you will see that they relate to the following objectives and strategies of the Master Plan:

Objectives T-2, T-6 & T-8

Strategies T.2.B, C, D, E, F & G; T.6.B & T.8

- 7. *Demonstrate Consistency with Sustainable Development Principles: There are no criteria listed in the RFP to demonstrate consistency with sustainable development principles. Sustainability principles are varied and at times industry defined. For this project we believe that the project meets accepted principals. Specifically the project is on an existing roadway corridor connecting the East Village Center to the Downtown. The project is adding less than a five (5) foot strip of asphalt along the entire length of the project. The project will provide access and service to the existing businesses and housing along the route while providing for future fill in development.*
- 8. *Demonstrate Consistency with Target Area requirements: This project has direct impact on the following Block Groups:*
 - a. *820500-3*
 - b. *820500-2*
 - c. *820500-1*

9. National Objective

Benefit to low- and moderate-income persons

Estimate the number of low- and moderate-income persons to benefit from the Project:

Below is information from DHCD on the block groups that will be directly impacted by this project and their income levels :

Community	Census Tract	Block Group	# LMI	LMI Universe	% LMI
Amherst town	820500	1	815	1300	62.7
Amherst town	820500	2	385	962	40.0
Amherst town	820500	3	500	662	75.5

Please submit responses to the following questions:

Project Name: *Main Street Barrier Removal, Reconstruction and Upgrade.*

Project Location: *The project is located on Main Street from Churchill Street to Northeast Street. Enclosure 1 shows the project area.*

Census Block Group:

A. Please describe in full the project for which you are requesting funding: *The Scope of this project is to reconstruct and upgrade Main Street from Churchill Street to North East Street. The three main priorities of this project are:*

- 1. Removal of existing accessibility issues for pedestrians, bicyclist and users of the Town's mass transit systems (bus and rail).*
- 2. Address the Blighted conditions along this roadway through block group areas, 820500-3, 820500-2 and 820500-1*
- 3. Improve safety along this corridor for the residents of the above block groups to access transit service and the larger Downtown business area.*

Currently in the project area there are physical barriers along the existing sections of acceptable and unacceptable sidewalks. These barriers include:

- 1. None existent curb cuts at road intersections with existing sidewalks.*
- 2. Unacceptably long travel distances to existing crosswalks to access bus transit and rail services. There are currently only three existing crosswalks across Main Street along the entire 4400 feet of this project. One crosswalk at each end of the project limits and one at Triangle Street.*
- 3. Inadequate vertical separation of the sidewalk and roadway. Many areas have the sidewalk at the same level of the roadway, posing a danger to mobility impaired pedestrians from automobiles and cyclist.*

The project area also includes substandard public transit facilities, and bike lanes. The problems in these areas include:

- 1. No covered waiting areas,*
- 2. Lack of bus pull offs*
- 3. Lack of easy access to bus stops from the sidewalks.*
- 4. Inconsistent or nonexistent Bike lanes.*

The work to improve this area will consist of; enclosure 2 provides details of the improvements:

- a. Sidewalks will be repaved and widened as necessary.*
- b. The sidewalks and roadway will be adjusted as required to remove existing accessibility barriers at crosswalks.*
- c. All crosswalk ramp cuts will be constructed to meet ADA standards.*

- d. The roadway and curbing will be adjusted as required to provide a positive barrier (maximum 6 inches) between the sidewalk and motorized traffic.
- e. The roadway will be expanded where needed to accommodate the marking of bicycle lanes adjacent to the vehicle travel lanes.
- f. The existing PVTa transit stops will be upgraded to allow for full bus pull offs, waiting areas and bus shelter pads.
- g. A minimum of 3 new crosswalks will be added to allow east and west passage along the Main St. corridor. The new crosswalk at Gray Street and Main Street will also improve access to Towns only passengers train station.
- h. Drainage will be modified to remove standing water at the new and upgraded crosswalks.

This work effort is geared to the low income residents living in the adjacent Block Group areas. Below is a breakdown of the individuals in this area.

Below is information from DHCD on the block groups that will be directly impacted by this project and their income levels:

Community	Census Tract	Block Group	# LMI	LMI Universe	% LMI
Amherst town	820500	1	815	1300	62.7
Amherst town	820500	2	385	962	40.0
Amherst town	820500	3	500	662	75.5

This chart provides additional information on the block group affected.

Census Block	2000 Population	Percent low/mod income	Population low/mod income
820500-01	1153	62.7%	722.931
820500-02	889	40.0%	355.6
820500-03	770	75.5%	581.35

4. What is the community's need for the proposed project/program?

The Community has identified through its master planning process that projects like this one are needed and encouraged. Specifically the goal of the transportation section of the Town's master plan is:

"A balanced, inclusive, accessible, safe, environmentally responsible transportation and circulation system that serves users of public transit, pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers, and that is connected within and among different modes both in town and to the region."

The specific areas of Chapter 9 "Transportation and Circulation" of the master plan that relate to this project are listed below:

Objectives T-2, T-6 & T-8

Strategies T.2.B, C, D, E, F & G; T.6.B & T.8

Figures 1-24 provide photos of the existing conditions along the project area.

5. Community Involvement:

This project grew out of the town staff identifying areas in town that have eligible block groups and do not meet the goals of the Towns Master Plan. Once these areas were identified the projects were vetted by the Public Works Committee and the Disability Access Advisory Committee (DAAC). The letters of support from these two committees are included as enclosures 4 and 5.

If this project is selected for funding the final designs will be brought back to the Public Works Committee, DAAC, the Public Transportation Committee and the Select Board for a final blessing. All of these meetings are open to the public.

6. Project Feasibility

- a. Describe what evidence exists to show that the community at large or project beneficiaries will use the project. Include documentation of demand for the activity through summary descriptions of surveys, inquiries, waiting lists or past participation.

We have currently received several emails and calls of concern due to the lack of ability to safely travel up and down this route as well as cross Main Street. This area is also of concern to PVTa concerning the safety their buses and customers going to and from the bus stops. Additional information is available upon request.

- b. If applicable, describe and document the availability and source of matching or other funds needed to complete the project.

The Town is proposing to use \$ 290,000 in other Town Funds to supplement this project work for the areas that are deemed to be outside CDBG eligibility.

- c. Identify the roles and responsibilities of all personnel involved in the project as well as internal controls.

This project will be handled by our Engineering office lead by Jason Skeels, PE., Town Engineer. He will have overall daily oversight of the project. He will be assisted by Paul Dethier, Asst Town Engineer and Elizabeth Marshall, Engineering Tech, who will have daily oversight of the work. All work will be accomplished in accordance with Mass Dot and Federal Highway Standards.

- d. Citing past accomplishments, document that the agency has the necessary past expertise to conduct the activity and has successfully completed past activities in a timely manner.

The Amherst Department of Public Works executes or oversees \$ 500,000 to \$3,000,000 of construction every year. For FY 11 we are working on about \$2,000,000 in roadway projects.

- e. Please submit a program budget that includes all sources of revenue and all expenses.

See Enclosure 4.

- f. Please submit a time line with milestones, including a start and end date that demonstrates that this project is feasible (will be complete) within 18 months.

- g. *See Enclosure 4.*

- h. Please identify the staff that will be directly responsible for implementing this activity.

Guilford Mooring, PE, Superintendent of Public Works

Jason Skeels, PE, Town Engineer

Paul Dethier, Asst Town Engineer

Elizabeth Marshal, Engineering Technician

7. Impact

It is expected that if all the proposed work is funded and accomplished that there will be a marked improvement in the quality of life for low-income residents in this area. The following outcomes are expected from this project:

- a. *We expect that accessibility and safety complaints will be reduced by 80 %.*
- b. *Transit times will increase on this segment of the route.*
- c. *A 50% increase in bike traffic over current estimates.*

8. Evaluation

Short Term Goals: Our short term goal is to remove all existing barriers to current mobility along this corridor. We shall use an actual count of barriers removed as the basis of our success. If no are removed the project will be classified as a complete failure. All barriers removed will signal an unexpected complete success.

Long Term Goals: That these improvements will last the next 10 to 20 years with little or no maintenance.

9. Agency Information

The Amherst Department of Public Works is a full service consolidated Public Works Department providing the following services:

*Water Collection and distribution
Waste Water Collection and Treatment
Highways and Sidewalks
Traffic Signals
Outside Grounds Maintenance
Town Cemeteries
Vehicle Maintenance
Engineering and Administrative Support*

The agency has been in existence for over 100 years.